

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission**  
**Minutes of Meeting – October 28, 2003**

**Present:**

Commissioners

Ron Welton, Executive Director, KNHPAC  
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet  
Kathryn Eckert, At-Large  
Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners  
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service  
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township  
Tom Nemacheck, U.P. Travel and Recreation Association  
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service - KEWE

Frank Fiala, Superintendent  
Steve DeLong, Landscape Architect  
Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Museum, Archives and Historical Services  
Kathleen Harter, Chief of Interpretation and Education  
Brian Hoduski, Museum Curator  
Charlie Masten, Facility Manager  
Jo Urion, Oral Historian

Guests

Susan Burack, Consultant  
Jill Burkland, Isle Royale Natural History Association  
Diana Charles, office of Sen. Carl Levin  
Sheri Davie, office of Sen. Debbie Stabenow  
Michael Matts, Consultant  
Lisa McKenzie, Hancock City Council  
Garrett Neese, the Daily Mining Gazette  
Erik Nordberg, MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections  
John Schneiderhan, Next Century Software and Hardware  
Julie Sprenger, Laurium Manor Inn  
Richard Taylor, Houghton County Historical Society  
Tom Tikkanen, Main Street Calumet  
Jeff Thiel, J. Thiel and Associates  
Amy Wisti, office of Rep. Bart Stupak  
Ed Yarbrough, Quincy Mine Hoist Association

**Absent:**       None

Recording Secretary: Jane Nordberg

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2003 at the KEWE Headquarters in Calumet. Chairman Paul Lehto called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and asked guests present to introduce themselves.

Agenda

The agenda was approved without change.

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the July 22, 2003 meeting were reviewed and approved with the following corrections:

In the business reports on page 2, Laura Partlow is with the MEDC, not NEDC.

In the superintendent's report of page 4, YACC should be YCC.

On page 8, it was Tom Nemacheck who brought writer Dixie Franklin to the area, not Tom Tikkanen.

On the last page, Charlie Masten's name is misspelled.

Report from the KHNPA Executive Director

Ron Welton thanked the Commissioners who attended the meeting with the new National Park Service Midwest regional director Ernest Quintana. The three arson fires on Fifth Street were cleaned up in September, with Commission assistance.

The Main Street Calumet project was highlighted with the recent visit by Gov. Granholm. Several local representatives attended a Main Street training forum in Lansing. The four committees of Main Street are now up and running: organization, design, promotion and economic revitalization. They are developing work plans and a design workshop hosted by SHPO staff will be held on November 20-21.

Ron asked Tom Tikkanen to step in if he wanted to add anything about Main Street. Tom said there were three recommendations for showcase properties, and SHPO and an architectural firm will be in town to begin giving technical assistance to those three locations. Some additional funds from the Michigan State Housing and Development Authority may be arranged. Work plans are to be submitted to the Main Street board by December 15 and then forwarded to MEDC in keeping with the requirements from Lansing in order for Calumet to receive its full Main Street designation in May.

Ron reported that Old Victoria, a cooperating site, is floundering. A driving force on their board left a few years ago and the organization has not been able to bounce back. An on-site groundskeeper has just left, and there is a danger of losing the site. Ron will meet with their board next week to put together a plan to save the site. Ron asked the Commission's approval for a budget of up to \$5,000 to work with Old Victoria on a short-term plan to revitalize the organization.

Sue Cone and Kathryn Eckert asked Ron to clarify what it would mean to "lose the site." Ron said the site closed early in the season because their bank account is depleted and they did not

have funds to keep their insurance. They have not done any maintenance on their structures in two years and the buildings are beginning to fall apart. The person he referred to had left the board because she had moved out of the area. She was successful in locating grants and finding free sources for labor, all on a volunteer basis. She has now returned to the area and is interested in working with the Old Victoria organization, but not in a volunteer capacity. Old Victoria has opportunities that they have not utilized; they have not collected fees, and their major fundraiser, a formerly well-established and well-attended craft fair, has fallen by the wayside for the last three years, so there has been little revenue.

Kathryn asked how the \$5,000 would be used. Ron anticipates that it would be a salary for an individual to focus on Old Victoria and get it operational, although he can't confirm that until the meeting with the board has occurred. Kathryn asked about other projects that might need Commission funds rather than acting immediately on Old Victoria.

Paul Lehto believes if the money goes into operating funds, it could be expected every year. Ron said that was not his intent – it is a one-time-only jump-start. Paul said everyone on the Commission has a pet project and has not asked for funds; there needs to be guidelines before something can be funded and those are not yet set. Kathryn said there is too little information to approve the motion. Paul said the Commission has an executive director and needs to have faith in his judgment. Bob Langseth said guidelines for funding should be the number one priority for Ron and the Commission to accomplish in the next month.

Clyde Raasio asked if the site received any other source of funding, perhaps the Ontonagon County Historical Society? Ron didn't know. He has spoken with OCHS and they are currently stretched with a recently acquired lighthouse. Clyde said the site is a significant county site and economic conditions there are bleak. Anything they can save to enhance the tourist economy would benefit them. Ron said the site was initially owned by the Township and they turned it over to the OCHS because they were struggling with maintenance issues. Clyde said the board needs to be encouraged to look for all resources within the county regardless of how low the level of funding. Kathryn is concerned about the level of interpretation at the site. Ron said they keep visitation numbers. A motion was made to approve up to \$5,000 for Old Victoria with Ron to report back at the next meeting. Motion passed.

Ron reported the Houghton County Historical Society was successful in receiving an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant of \$100,000. Ron asked Dick Taylor to give an update. Dick said they have begun working with Michigan Tech's industrial archeology program – part of the grant includes providing a graduate student with a stipend for one year, with an extension of funding possible throughout the duration of his or her master's degree. The student would develop an understanding of the archeological significance of the mill site, critical as some of the site has already been buried under other buildings and parks, and other development looms south of the museum's historical complex. HCHS envisions a comprehensive interpretive program on copper milling, including technology and also cultural aspects that would be interesting to visitors. They have been preapproved for a rural development authority loan which they will pursue to construct the museum interpretive center serviced by a live steam narrow gauge railroad. Dick thanked the Park, the Commission, and Senator Levin's office for their letters of support.

Ron continued his report. Senate Bill 1338 and House Bill 2411 brought up at the last meeting remain unchanged in committee. Ron directed the Commission's attention to a letter received from Michigan Tech in response to the Commission's concern over reduced services at the MTU Archives. There was also a response from the Dow Foundation regarding a grant request.

The Park will be conducting a visitor's survey next summer. Some of the data collected from the survey will indicate what park visitors contribute to the area.

A 58,000-pound copper boulder was recently discovered on Moyle property in Houghton, where the old Huron and Isle Royale mining operations were, buried in glacial till about 8' underground. Ron inquired about a donation, but Moyle was not interested. The boulder is currently being marketed to museums nationwide at a cost of \$200,000. It is 15' x 13' by 3' thick at the thickest portion. Larry Lankton remarked that the Ontonagon boulder weighs only 4,000 pounds.

Traditionally, the last meeting of the year includes prospective meeting dates for the next year. The fourth Tuesday was best for most of the Commission. Ron suggested January 27, April 27, July 27, and October 26.

There were no questions for the executive director.

#### Report from the KEWE Superintendent

Frank Fiala was pleased to announce that as of October 1, the administration of the Keweenaw National Historical Park is separate and will report directly to the regional director. Frank thanked everyone for their support.

As for personnel changes, Frank introduced Ellen Leppanen, who has been working as an administrative assistant for about six weeks. Tom Baker has accepted the management assistant position, and his job will be filled in interpretation. Fritz Rushlow, project manager from the historic preservation training center, and Sheila Rushlow, the contract specialist at Isle Royale, will be returning to the HTPC. Fritz will continue to be involved with KEWE projects until those are completed. KEWE is partnering with the Copper Country Community Arts Center and will have Susan Burack work part-time as an official grantwriter available to various partners.

Dr. Bill Anderson, the director of History, Arts and Library department, visited on August 15 and spent the entire day and evening with KEWE staff. His visit was followed by Gov. Granholm's. Frank believes both came away with a good understanding of what the Park is trying to do and the potential for heritage tourism in the Copper Country. The regional director also visited, and he was appreciative of the efforts involved in a non-traditional park unit. In mid-August, a regional team worked with Steve DeLong and John Rosemurgy on a list of classified structures and the landscape inventory. Steve is working with them to list the sites KEWE owns on the national list.

The alternative transportation planning team visited; Michigan Tech is spearheading that and most of the survey will be done next summer. The visitor survey project people will be in on Friday to work on a survey that will overlap both efforts. John Rosemurgy and Jeremiah Mason have been working with people in Laurium concerning the historic district proposal funded by the Americana Foundation.

There are a number of building issues:

- The Union Building is at about 100% in its construction drawings after some delays. The bid will be handled at the regional office. Once approved, a temporary roof modification will be done for the winter and the window project has started in the east wing.
- The headquarters building is almost completed. A labor issue has been settled, and there is a short punch list of projects. Planning money has been received for the interior rehabilitation and that work will begin soon.
- The installation for a fire suppression system in the library building is in planning. The space-saver installation in the basement is complete.
- The pay office at Quincy is in for FY05 for a major rehab at just under \$500K. Planning continues.
- Coppertown has been on hold for acquisition until the test results are received. On the basis of that, KEWE will use that as a test case to go in for a bill that changes the legislation regarding the acquisition of property with contaminants.
- KEWE now has ownership of the Rowe Building, and is using it for storage. The inventory formerly stored in the green warehouse that the Township had for the Oddfellows material has now moved over to the Rowe Warehouse.

Frank attended the Main Street orientation in Lansing and on the same visit met with Christman Company regarding the smelter project. The EPA visited, and KEWE is partnering with the Quincy Development Corporation and the Township in removing contaminants.

Staff is heavily involved in the budget call which will come out next month. Frank asked for input on projects or assistance needed. There is no budget yet. KEWE continues to spend from last year's level. Frank asked Diana Charles and Amy Wisti to comment on that later.

Frank received some e-mail from Margaret Tribsch, the new person in the NPS operating commission in the office of policy. The advisory commission as an operating body will need to adhere to that charter. Frank directed the commission to review the documents in their packets. Ron said that had gone out in a previous mailing.

Questions for the Supervisor

Bob asked what fiscal year the budget call was for. Frank said it would be '05 through '07.

Larry asked for more details on the contamination of both the smelter site and the slag pile. Frank said they were two separate issues. On the smelter site, the state is acquiring the rail right-of-way for a recreational trail. It is bigger than they want but the test holes came up with high concentrations of heavy metals. As a result, the emergency response team from the EPA found contaminants throughout the building – some were in barrels, some was loose fiber, some was petroleum-based. Initially, they were very concerned about the site. Rather than issue an emergency order, KEWE was able to work with them. The Township had assumed ownership of that site for Park purposes and are now responsible for contaminant clean-up. KEWE was able to organize an inventory with the Township and EPA. Materials were gathered and assembled in a central location, it was tested and the results were optimistic. As a result, however, an asbestos survey came back very high. All of this needs to be resolved before any construction can begin.

Regarding the slag pile, according to the Record of Decision, as long as people don't ingest anything, the site is fine. There are ways to safeguard and contain that. The real issue is between the state and the EPA and KEWE has asked to step back and let them work together and figure out whether there is any leaching and heavy metal concentration in the sediment in front of the smelter. If that's there, then that could be brought in under the superfund program. If it's not, then the Record of Decision will probably stand.

At 9:52, Paul asked for a five-minute break.

Reports from the Commission

The meeting resumed at 10:10. Paul acknowledged the arrival of Sheri Davie and Ed Yarbrough.

Bob congratulated the HCHS on their grant, and thanked them for their support of the Main Street program. St. Anne's has preapproval for a grant loan prospect. They are working with Quinn Evans on treating the sandstone in the basement. Visitor numbers doubled this year and are up to 2,500, but at the annual meeting the report was 3,500. Bob asked Larry to clarify; Larry said the second number was correct. Bob attributes this to the new exhibit on mining housing. Kathryn agreed the exhibit was great and asked if it would be re-installed. Larry said they hope to, but unfortunately, the panels are turning green. Efforts are being made to have it reprinted.

Tom Nemacheck reported there is a resurgence of efforts to promote the Lake Superior region. Previously, there existed a Lake Superior Circle Tour magazine which has faded. The SARS epidemic in Toronto created much tourism funding throughout Ontario, which also helps Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. Tom believes promoting the Lake Superior region has great potential. There will be a workshop Friday afternoon in Marquette, and another in Sault Ste. Marie on Monday, to determine how people of the region feel about the Lake Superior area. There were additional workshops in Thunder Bay and Duluth. A bi-national committee will then promote the Lake Superior region with that feedback. Bill Anderson would like to do a maritime program, using the U.P. as a pilot project for the State of Michigan. There will be a meeting on

December 11 to identify a maritime trail. Tom said the Automobile National Heritage Route is established in Detroit. Kathryn added that trail includes southeastern lower peninsula responsible for the automotive industry – Flint, Lansing and other plant locations. Bob asked if the history of copper could be included in the automotive trail. Tom said there were great ties to the U.P. (Ford, for instance) but wasn't sure how the tie-in would work. Larry said the auto heritage was geographically bound. Copper would come in behind iron mining and lumber. Kathryn suggested Barbara Nelson-Jameson of the NPS Rivers and Trails program, who did much of the work on the Auto Heritage Route, would be the person to ask about adding the U.P. to the auto trail.

Sue Cone reported the state projects are winding down. The Pine Street bricking is done. MDOT did some of the items on the punch list, and some were left out. Paul will report more on that. The concrete intersection is complete and will be open in a few days, with a stoplight. The Village's historic district commission hired Jim Johnson as a coordinator, replacing Campbell Sutton, who has left the area. Coppertown has organized a planning committee for the Morrison School move; that committee is meeting regularly. A spring clean-up is planned using prisoner labor.

Sue asked Julie Sprenger to give an update on the Village of Laurium survey project. Julie reported the committee is about half done. Every property in Laurium (~1,000) will be surveyed. Jeremiah Mason and Stephanie Atwood are doing the work and are trying to finish before the weather gets too bad. Julie is writing a letter to Laurium residents asking for historical data and photographs. Sue reported Laurium was starting some strategic planning.

Kathryn reported her intent to review the Lake Linden Congregational Church steeple stabilization project, and also to visit St. Anne's. She has prepared Americana for funding for appropriate sandstone consolidation on St. Anne's, which could help with other projects. She has some reports of other sandstone churches and will share those with Bob. Frank requested a copy for John Rosemurgy; Kathryn will provide. Marty Fluharty will be receiving an award for environmental leadership. Bob asked Ron to send a note of congratulations. Ron will comply.

Larry asked if Quinn Evans was coming up. Frank reported they would be up in November, with Christman. Steve Jones is coming. Larry asked if they were looking at the sandstone at the smelter, and Kathryn said they should. She said they would look at it and determine if they could solve problems immediately; if they can't, they will advise the cost of providing an expert in sandstone consolidation to come in and make an analysis. Sue asked if they could look at the Theatre; Kathryn said it probably depended on who was providing the funds for the trip.

Larry reported there would be a meeting next week regarding preservation grants tied to technology. Tech will suggest two possible ideas – mining landscape, and rehabilitation technology. Sandstone architecture is another possibility as the grant program is set up for technical preservation questions. One specific goal is churches, so sandstone preservation could fit that. That meeting is November 4<sup>th</sup> at noon.

Larry further reported there were a lot of people at the social sciences department at Tech currently involved with local history projects. Pat Martin is working with the Union Building, Terry Reynolds is working with Houghton County Historical Society on milling, Kim Hoagland

did the exhibit for St. Anne's but has also drafted grants on sandstone architecture and landscape, Carol MacLennan and a graduate student are working on the Huron Dam history. Larry continues to work on the Historic Resources Study, which is currently 400+ pages and within 15 pages of being complete. He apologized for the delay.

Clyde said it was a quiet summer. The evaluation continues on the sanitary sewer system in the southeastern part of Franklin Township.

Paul reported the Superior smokestack stabilization project has been completed. The cap was stabilized and tuckpointing was done on the top 30' of the stack. A future project will need to be done to finish it, but it is stabilized for now. The cooperating project between the Village and the Township on Sixth Street is being completed. New lights will be installed on the whole street; that should be complete before winter. Paul thanked Abby Sue Fisher and KEWE for the inventory on the Oddfellows material stored in the warehouse that has safely been moved to Rowe Warehouse. Calumet Electronics, which owns the #3 enginehouse behind the Rowe Building, applied for a permit from the Historic District Commission to revamp the roof and windows on the building, and was granted the permit. The project will commence at their expense. Additional repairs are being made to the drill shop roof, also some stabilization is being done at the Calumet #1 dry house. The EPA funded a \$245K clean-up of the sands at Calumet Dam and Paul is pleased with the outcome. The boilerhouse and the pump house there are historically important and should be the site of a future project.

#### Old Business

Bob asked if Clyde ever found the wooden water pipe he was concerned about at the July meeting. Charlie Masten said it was still there. Bob asked for the results of the archeological study done of the sewer system. Ed Yarbrough reported that MTU industrial archeology professor Pat Martin and graduate student Dennis Leopold did a full archeological survey following the lines of that sewer system. Ed has only seen a draft but it seems very thorough.

#### Reports from Legislative Officers

Diana Charles congratulated KEWE on its new independence. Sen. Levin is involved in the investigations regarding corporate tax shelters, intelligence leading up to the war in Iraq, and contracts for the rebuilding of Iraq. He is concerned with the relaxing of clean water regulation which affects the Great Lakes region. The economy continues to worsen at every level.

Sheri Davie reported Sen. Stabenow has been working with Sen. Levin on the trash import issue. She has been visiting communities statewide to rally support for stronger legislation and has been successful in passing stricter guidelines for import. She was unsuccessful, however, in funding a "Month for America" campaign in which one month of the Iraq budget increase would be used for U.S. education, health care, and other national projects.

Amy Wisti confirmed Paul's inquiry regarding the passing of Bart Stupak's mother. Ron will send a card on behalf of the Commission. The funeral will be Thursday evening in Gladstone.



Congressman Stupak had a recent guest editorial in the Daily Mining Gazette where he explained his decision to vote against the House Bill on the war in Iraq.

### Public Comments

Ed Yarbrough reported the completion of significant repairs to the 1918 hoist house to stem some water leakage, and window repairs to the #2 shaft house. Ed thanked KEWE in general, and Steve DeLong, Charlie Masten and Ken Kipena specifically, as well as two volunteers from MTU, in cleaning up some of the properties on the northwest side of U.S. 41. John Rosemurgy, Steve, and Ed have reactivated their work on the T21 grant that will match Park funding already in hand (the Midwest Regional grant applied for two years ago) for emergency stabilization money for both the boiler house #5 and the locomotive roundhouse. The amounts received from the regional office were \$36,000 for one building, and \$39,200 for the other; that money will be used as leverage for larger stabilization projects. Ed is looking forward to starting his training in accessioning and cataloguing with Brian Hoduski and Abby Sue Fisher. In the spring, a new bat kiosk will be installed in the gift shop to interpret the bat colonies, made possible by a grant from Bat Conservation International, working with Ed and MTU graduate student Laura Krueger, who did a bat survey underground and found two endangered bat species. Ed would like to return to a development concept plan for Quincy, which was a priority years ago that has been set aside. That needs to be done before undertaking other interpretation, such as a walking tour. The third printing of Old Reliable was released last week. Ticket-buying visitors were down this year, from about \$24,000 to about \$21,500. However, gift shop revenue increased.

Erik Nordberg said the structural steel went up this week on the construction for the new MTU Library building, the Center for Integrated Learning and Technology. There have been some temporary moves of archival material; he hopes to move the entire collection next summer. A compact shelving bid has gone out including 1,000 drawers for flat material. He has been meeting with Brian and Abby Sue to determine if the Park has interest in some three-dimensional objects and artifacts more conducive to KEWE interpretation. The archival collections have contributed to the HCHS and Village of Laurium grant projects. Planning continues on a digitization project; hopefully, a pilot project will be in place by the spring. The Fourth Thursday in History series completed its 2003 schedule with a presentation on the Huron Mine work. The series continues to be very well-attended. Planning for the second Local History Smackdown is underway and a date should be settled soon. Erik welcomed ideas for speakers and venues for the 2004 series. Planning has begun on the Copper Country Homecoming and Old Settlers' Ball scheduled for July, 2004. Erik will be releasing a call for papers shortly regarding a symposium of local history topics in connection with the homecoming, scheduled for July 1 and 2. Deadline for submissions for the symposium is February 1.

Jill Burkland has been working with Kathleen Harter on a scope of sales statement for the Park. A publications plan will result, which will aid in developing new books and products. A series of 3 or 4 postcards with historic photos will be for sale soon.

Julie Sprenger reported the Laurium Manor Inn is no longer doing guided tours. There are self-guided tours every day from 11-5, and that has worked out well. Abbey Green has completed a piece of stained glass for the Inn.

Sue Cone asked Susan Burack if Susan would be working with organizations like the Calumet Theatre that lost all of its grant funding. Susan has met with Dick and Jim of the Theatre and they are moving forward with some plans. Ron said the Park would be hosting a grant workshop with all of the cooperating sites to make them aware of what Susan has to offer.

Larry thanked the Daily Mining Gazette for recent favorable articles highlighting local history events. Frank added that Garrett Neese is a big factor, as he attends the KEWE meetings and reports on Park projects.

John Schneiderhan asked if there was a central location to find out about Park activities. Frank said the Park newsletter comes out on a quarterly basis, and quarterly meetings are open to the public. There is no central visitors' center yet. Because the Park is built on a partnership premise, it is difficult to wrangle all the information. John asked for a contact for the Laurium project; Julie will speak with him after the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

The Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission meeting dates for 2004 are:

January 27, 2004

April 27, 2004

July 27, 2004

October 26, 2004